

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image capturing apparatus comprising:
  - an image generator for photographing a subject and generating image data;
  - an interface for performing data communication with an external device;
  - a discriminator for determining a data communication mode established between said interface and said external device;
  - a compressor for setting a compression ratio adapted to said data communication mode on the basis of a result of determination of said discriminator and compressing said image data at the set compression ratio; and
  - a transmitter for transmitting said image data compressed by said compressor to said external device via said interface.
2. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discriminator determines communication speed as said data communication mode and said compressor sets a compression ratio in accordance with the determined communication speed.
3. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said discriminator determines whether the communication speed is high speed or low speed and, when said communication speed is low speed, said compressor sets a higher compression ratio as compared with the case where said communication speed is high speed.
4. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discriminator determines wire communication or wireless communication

as said data communication mode.

5. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when said data communication mode is wireless communication, said compressor sets a higher compression ratio as compared with the case where said data communication mode is wire communication.

6. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a recorder for recording image data compressed by said compressor onto a recording medium.

7. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said compressor sets a compression ratio of image data recorded on said recording medium to a value lower than a compression ratio of image data transmitted by said transmitter.

8. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising: a detector for detecting an amount of image data recorded on said recording medium, wherein said compressor sets a compression ratio on the basis of said data communication mode and said data amount.

9. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising: a calculator for calculating time of transmission of image data to said external device from the data amount detected by said detector, wherein

said compressor sets a compression ratio on the basis of said data communication mode and the transmission time calculated by said calculator.

10. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said transmitter transmits the compressed image data recorded on said recording medium to said external device.

11. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein image data generated by said image generator can be transmitted as moving image data to said external device via said interface, and said compressor sets a compression ratio of image data recorded on said recording medium to a value lower than the compression ratio used at the time of transmitting said moving image data.

12. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a converter for converting size of image data generated by said image generator on the basis of a result of determination by said discriminator, wherein said compressor compresses the image data of which size has been converted by said converter.

13. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising: a recorder for recording image data compressed by said compressor onto a recording medium, wherein said converter converts size of image data to be recorded on said recording medium to size larger than size of image data transmitted by said transmitter.

14. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a detector for detecting a remaining capacity of a driving source for driving  
said image capturing apparatus, wherein

    said compressor sets a compression ratio on the basis of said data  
communication mode and the remaining capacity of said driving source.

15. A method of compressing image data captured by an image capturing  
apparatus, comprising the steps of:

    generating image data;  
    determining a data communication mode established between an interface for  
performing data communication and an external device;  
    setting a compression ratio adapted to the determined data communication  
mode;  
    compressing said image data at the set compression ratio; and  
    transmitting the compressed image data to said external device via said  
interface.

16. An image capturing apparatus comprising:  
an image generator for photographing a subject and generating image data;  
an interface for performing data communication with an external device;  
a detector for detecting a remaining capacity of a driving source for driving  
said image capturing apparatus;  
    a compressor for setting a compression ratio on the basis of the remaining  
capacity of said driving source detected by said detector and compressing said image

data at the set compression ratio; and

a transmitter for transmitting said image data compressed by said compressor to said external device via said interface.

17. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein when the remaining capacity of said driving source becomes smaller than a predetermined amount, said compressor sets a compression ratio to a higher value as compared with the case where the remaining capacity of said driving source is larger than the predetermined amount.

18. A method of compressing image data captured by an image capturing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

generating image data;

detecting a remaining capacity of a driving source for driving said image capturing apparatus;

setting a compression ratio on the basis of said detected remaining capacity of said driving source and compressing said image data at the set compression ratio; and

transmitting the compressed image data to an external device via said interface.

19. An image capturing apparatus comprising:

an image generator for photographing a subject and generating image data;

a recorder for recording the image data generated by said image generator onto a recording medium;

a first detector for detecting an amount of the image data recorded on said

recording medium;

a second detector for detecting a remaining capacity of a driving source for driving said image capturing apparatus;

an interface for performing data communication with an external device;

a reader, when the remaining capacity of said driving source detected by said second detector becomes smaller than a predetermined amount, for reading image data from said recording medium in order from image data of a smaller amount on the basis of a result of detection performed by said first detector; and

a transmitter for transmitting said image data read by said reader to said external device via said interface.

20. A method of transmitting image data captured by an image capturing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

generating image data;

recording the generated image data onto a recording medium;

detecting an amount of the image data recorded on said recording medium;

detecting a remaining capacity of a driving source for driving said image capturing apparatus;

reading the image data from said recording medium in order from a smaller amount of image data in said detected data amount, when the remaining capacity of said driving source becomes smaller than a predetermined amount; and

transmitting the read image data to an external device via an interface.